



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/910,589	07/20/2001	William A. Huffman	062986.0200	1406

7590 06/22/2004

Baker Botts L.L.P.
Suite 600
2001 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75201-2980

EXAMINER

BRAGDON, REGINALD GLENWOOD

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2188

DATE MAILED: 06/22/2004

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PRL

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/910,589

Applicant(s)

HUFFMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Reginald G. Bragdon

Art Unit

2188

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6 and 8-10 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5, 7 and 11-20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 July 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because:

In figure 2, "local block" should be "local buffer". See page 6, line 15, of the specification.

There is no element 605 in figure 5 (see page 47, line 28).

3. Corrected drawing sheets are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

4. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is greater than 150 words.

Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

On page 13, the status of the applications on lines 17 and 19 should be updated.

On page 46, line 10, "22" should be "24".

On page 46, line 11, "24" should be "22".

On page 45, line 16, "24" should be "22".

On page 49, line 4, "24" should be "22".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

6. Claims 5, 7 and 11-20 are objected to because of the following informalities:

As per claim 5, line 12, --corresponding to the most recent subsequent update to memory request-- should be added after "acknowledgement" to distinguish from the "acknowledgement" set forth in claim 1.

As per claim 7, line 8, "request" should be --requests--.

As per claim 7, line 9, add --receipt-- before "order".

As per claim 7, line 10, --corresponding to the most recent subsequent update to memory request-- should be added after "acknowledgement" to distinguish from the "acknowledgement" set forth in claim 1.

As per claim 11, line 10, the period (".") should be a comma (--,--).

Art Unit: 2188

As per claim 11, line 11, "update" should be --updates--.

As per claim 17, line 9, "request" should be --requests--.

As per claim 17, line 9, add --receipt-- before "order".

All dependent claims are objected to as having the same deficiencies as the claims they depend from.

Appropriate correction is required.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 1-20 are allowable over the prior art of record.
8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

While exemplary reference Mithal et al. (6,636,950) teaches acknowledging second and subsequent write-backs, the reference, alone or in combination, does not teach the combination of steps set forth in claim 1, or the combination of system elements set forth in claim 11.

Conclusion

9. Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

10. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Art Unit: 2188

All "OFFICIAL" patent application related correspondence transmitted by FAX must be directed to the central FAX number at (703) 872-9306:

"INFORMAL" or "DRAFT" FAX communications may be sent to the Examiner at (703) 746-5693, only after approval by the Examiner.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Fourth Floor (receptionist).

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Reginald G. Bragdon whose telephone number is (703) 305-3823. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM and every other Friday from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

The examiner's supervisor, Mano Padmanabhan, can be reached at (703) 306-2903.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

RGB
June 15, 2004

Reginald G. Bragdon
Reginald G. Bragdon
Primary Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2188